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Sanders gets narrow win over Buttigieg

Klobuchar claims 3rd in N.H. primary

By Julian Routh
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Election 2020

MANCHESTER, N.H. — For the second consecutive time in a Democratic presidential primary election, voters in New Hampshire opted for political "revolution" and chose the firebrand 78-year-old U.S. senator from across state lines in Vermont to carry the party's torch this year.

Bernie Sanders, who has led the field in 30 straight major polls here since early January, won the Democratic primary on Tuesday, according to The Associated Press. The outlet called the senator's victory at 11:44 p.m. with about 93% of precincts reporting.

As of the AP's call, Mr. Sanders was in first place with 26% and about 70,000 votes statewide — 1.6% more than Pete Buttigieg, the former South Bend, Ind., mayor who finished neck-and-neck with him in last week's Iowa caucuses.

Holding onto third place at 19.8% was Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, whose candidacy was propelled this past weekend thanks to what new supporters deemed a persuasive debate performance here Friday night. Since then, her campaign rose in tracking polls, pulled in a few million dollars in donations and put her in front of bigger crowds.

All three of the top candidates hit the 15% threshold necessary to qualify for delegates, and will split the state's 24 pledged delegates proportionally.

Though it hands out a minuscule percentage of the 1,990 delegates needed to win the Democratic nomination, the New Hampshire primary has traditionally given a significant bump to its top finishers and worked to wean out the rest of the field. As the polls closed Tuesday and results started to come in, entrepreneur Andrew Yang, former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick and Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet dropped out of the race.

Mr. Sanders, in his winning campaign here, relied on the same argument he has made in campaign stops across the country — and one very similar to what he preached in 2016 when he beat Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire: that the political system is "corrupt," favors the ultra-wealthy and requires swift, immediate change from the top down.

Mr. Sanders took the stage to thunderous applause from his supporters shortly after 11 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Stan Spirou Field House on the campus of Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester.

There, he thanked voters for a "grand victory" and said it's the "beginning of the end for Donald Trump."

"The reason that we are going to win is that we are putting together an unprecedented multi-generational, multi-racial political movement," Mr. Sanders said, "and this is a movement from coast to coast,

SEE **PRIMARY**, PAGE A-6

Wilkinsburg jury asks judge two questions

Completes its first full day of deliberations

By Jonathan D. Silver
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The jury in the Wilkinsburg mass shooting trial ended its first full day of deliberations late Tuesday afternoon, but not before asking the judge two questions:

- "Who does the prosecution allege held .40 caliber and rifle?"
- "Can we get copies of T-Mobile phone records and a Highlighter?"

Cheron Shelton, 33, of Lincoln-Lemington, is charged with killing five adults and an unborn child on March 9, 2016, during an ambush of a backyard barbecue at 1304 Franklin Ave.

Also late Tuesday, Shelton's attorneys made an oral motion for a mistrial, which Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Edward J. Borkowski denied.

Media were barred from entering the courtroom by uniformed sheriff's deputies during the arguments about the defense motion. Judge Borkowski addressed reporters after the brief hearing, explaining that the motion was based on objections to exhibits being released to the media Tuesday that had been entered into evidence during trial.

It is normal procedure for trial exhibits to be released to the media.

The judge said he elected to bar the media because he did not know whether the motion might address protected information, such as grand jury materials.

Jurors arrived about 9 a.m. after getting the case late Monday afternoon and electing a foreperson following closing arguments. They worked through lunch Tuesday and left around 4 p.m. Judge Borkowski had told the jury to work at its own pace, though with the expectation that

SEE **JURY**, PAGE A-7

James Hilston/Post-Gazette

Gallery members at the Wilkinsburg murder trial listen as questions submitted by the deliberating jury are answered on Tuesday.

Jerry Hughes photo

New Castle native James Thomas, a cheerleader at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas, is featured in Netflix's hit documentary "Cheer."

Spreading good cheer

New Castle track star finds fame in Netflix documentary on cheerleading

By Anya Sostek
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

At high school track meets, people still ask coach Drue Flora what happened to James Thomas, a track star who graduated almost four years ago from Union Area High School in New Castle.

"He's the best athlete I've ever seen," said Flora, his high school track coach. "I've never seen anybody that good at something."

What has happened to James Thomas has been a wild journey from New Castle to Ypsilanti, Mich., to Corsicana, Texas, where a Netflix documentary about his junior college cheerleading team has launched him into the spotlight.

In the past few weeks, Thomas has appeared twice on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," amassed more than 45,000 Instagram followers and been stopped in public by strangers who are fans of the show.

The Netflix documentary "Cheer" follows cheerleaders at Navarro College as they try to win their 14th national championship, providing an unflinching look at what cheerleaders achieve and endure, both physically and emotionally.

Fans include Reese Witherspoon, Chrissy Teigen and J.J. Watt. Thomas' roommate Jerry Harris, one of the show's breakout stars, interviewed celebrities such as Brad Pitt and Laura Dern on the Oscars red carpet Sunday,

Thomas, who sometimes sports a La Roche Redhawks shirt on the show, isn't heavily featured on "Cheer," but gets plenty of screen time as a roommate of Harris and one of the show's other stars, La'Darius Marshall.

On one of his "Ellen" appearances in January, Thomas hoisted Kendall Jenner 6 feet in the air as part of a cheer stunt. When he met Jenner and realized that she knew who he was, "I freaked out," he said.

On Instagram, he posted a photo as he got off the plane in Los Angeles for a second stint on "Ellen."

"Look to my right and it's

SEE **CHEER**, PAGE A-7

4 who prosecuted Trump ally Stone quit

DOJ lowers amount of prison time it seeks

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The four lawyers who prosecuted Roger Stone quit the case Tuesday after the Justice Department overruled them and said it would take the extraordinary step of lowering the amount of prison time it would seek for President Donald Trump's longtime ally and confidant.

The resignations raised immediate questions over whether Mr. Trump, who earlier in the day had blasted the original sentencing recommendation as "very horrible and unfair," had at least indirectly exerted his will on a Justice Department that he often views as an arm of the White House.

The department said the decision to shorten the sentencing recommendation was made Monday night — before Mr. Trump's tweet — and prosecutors had not spoken to the White House about it. Even so, the resignations of the entire trial team broke open a simmering dispute over the punishment of a Trump ally whose case has long captured the president's attention. The episode was the latest to entangle the Justice Department, meant to operate free from White House sway in criminal investigations and prosecutions, in presidential politics.

The four attorneys, including two who were early members of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia team, composed the entire Justice Department trial team that won convictions against Stone last fall.

Each had signed onto a Monday sentencing memo that recommended between seven and nine years in prison for Stone, who was convicted of lying to Congress, witness tampering and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election. None lent their names to a Tuesday memo that called the original recommendation excessive.

The resignations leave in limbo the resolution of a case that was one of the signature prosecutions of Mr. Mueller's team and that cut

SEE **STONE**, PAGE A-6

Parks Conservancy disagrees with Peduto on yearly tax

By Ashley Murray
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Two separate developments occurred this week surrounding the city's planned implementation of the parks tax, and several parties, including council members and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, are asking whether voters are going to receive what was promised.

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy on Monday hand delivered a letter to Mayor Bill Peduto and all City Council members taking issue with language in the Peduto administration's tax-establishing legislation that states council must approve the half-mill property tax levy each year.

Voters on Nov. 5 approved the half-mill property tax increase — $50 on every $100,000 of assessed real estate — to fund city parks. The tax is expected to raise roughly $10 million a year.

In the letter signed by conservancy CEO and President Jayne Miller, Ms. Miller writes that she applauds "prompt action to implement the charter amendment" but expressed concern that the "tax levy is optional on the part of city council."

An attached legal opinion addressed to the city's Law

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